
THOMPSON B. POLLARD.

FEBRUARY 17, 1910.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. SCOTT, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 5075.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 5075) granting an honorable discharge to Thompson B. Pollard, having carefully considered the same, reports it back favorably, and recommends that it be passed without amendment.

The bill is identical with Senate bill 6550, Sixtieth Congress, second session, and which was favorably considered by this committee, and subsequently passed by the Senate.

The committee adopts as its report the report (No. 777) which accompanied Senate bill 6550 in the Sixtieth Congress, hereto appended.

[Senate Report No. 777, Sixtieth Congress, second session.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, having considered the bill (S. 6550) granting an honorable discharge to Thompson B. Pollard, hereby reports it back to the Senate favorably, and recommends that it be passed without amendment.

The records of the War Department show that this soldier served over two years as a corporal in Battery B, New Jersey Light Artillery Volunteers, and was honorably discharged as of that grade and organization December 11, 1863, to enable him to accept promotion. On December 12, 1863, he was mustered into service at Brandy Station, Va., as second lieutenant, Battery D, New Jersey Light Artillery Volunteers; on February 10, 1864, he tendered his resignation in a letter, of which the following is a copy:

FOURTH NEW JERSEY BATTERY,
Camp Barry, D. C., February 10, 1864.

CAPTAIN.

SIR: I have the honor to tender the resignation of my commission as second lieutenant in the Fourth New Jersey Battery, Light Artillery, to avoid being dismissed the service for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

I am, sir, yours, respectfully,

THOMPSON B. POLLARD,
Second Lieutenant, Fourth New Jersey Battery, Light Artillery.

Capt. GEO. T. WOODBURY,
Commanding Fourth New Jersey Battery, Light Artillery.

THOMPSON B. POLLARD.

This letter was forwarded through military channels indorsed as follows:

FOURTH NEW JERSEY BATTERY,
Camp Barry, D. C., February 11, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded. Approved.

This officer is of no account, nor never would be. Is lamentably inefficient.

G. T. WOODBURY,
Captain, Commanding Fourth New Jersey Battery.

HEADQUARTERS CAMP BARRY, D. C.,
February 16, 1864.

Approved and respectfully forwarded, believing it to be for the benefit of the service. This officer is very illiterate; is devoid of all officer-like bearing, and his language generally to enlisted men is such as to be very prejudicial to good order and military discipline.

JAMES A. HALL, Major, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS CHIEF OF ARTILLERY, U. S. ARMY,
Washington, February 16, 1864.

This officer is entirely unsuited for a commission in a field battery. I recommend that his resignation be accepted.

WILLIAM F. BARRY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT WASHINGTON,
TWENTY-SECOND ARMY CORPS,
February 16, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army. Inasmuch as Lieutenant Pollard tenders his resignation to avoid being dismissed the service for conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, I recommend that he be dishonorably discharged the United States service.

C. C. AUGUR,
Major-General, Commanding.

The letter of resignation having been received in the War Department, an order was issued February 19, 1864, as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 19, 1864.

[Special Orders No. 82.]

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45. Second Lieut. Thompson B. Pollard, Fourth New Jersey Battery, having tendered his resignation to avoid being dismissed for conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, and he being entirely unfit for the position of a commissioned officer, as reported by his superior officers, is, upon the recommendation of his commanding generals, hereby discharged the service of the United States.

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By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

The report of the War Department upon this case concludes as follows:

"As this officer was discharged on account of unfitness for the service, for which he was culpably responsible, he was not honorably discharged.

"Respectfully submitted.

"F. C. AINSWORTH,
"The Adjutant-General.

"WAR DEPARTMENT, THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

"April 13 1908.

"The SECRETARY OF WAR."

The testimony of the soldier and the further testimony of a number of his comrades show that he was an uneducated man, whose highest ambition was to be an orderly sergeant. A lieutenant of his command, Battery B, First New Jersey Light Artillery, knowing his popularity in his home county, insisted that he should help him, the said lieutenant, raise a new company in which he, Pollard, could have a second lieutenant's commission. This suggestion was followed and resulted in a commission being issued to Pollard, who, while a good soldier, was unfitted for the duties of an officer. He seems to have used language on various occasions to soldiers which was not of the kind that an officer should use to his men. It is this that seems to have led to his letter of resignation, which was worded, according to the soldier's statement, under the advice of his captain, formerly the lieutenant in his first company.

There is a question in the minds of the committee whether the soldier's discharge was without honor, the order simply stating that he was "discharged." In view of his previous good service as a corporal for over two years, the committee thinks that the most lenient view should be taken, and recommends that he be entered on the records as honorably discharged.

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